Docket No.: 02635/0202519-US0

Application No. 10/524,938 Amendment dated November 6, 2008 After Final Office Action of August 6, 2008

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

 (Currently amended) A device for feeding a material into a cutting/comminution zone of a cutting machine for organic plant materials, particularly for tobacco, comprising:

a body containing a cutter head;

- a transporting device which transports wetted tobacco material into the cutting comminution zone and comprises at least one conveyor equipped with at least one transmission belt, wherein the transporting device is coupled with a self-supporting bearing structure defined preferably by guides, so that said at least one conveyor can be displaced together with said self-supporting bearing structure and the working surface of the transmission belt of a main conveyor is being situated at an angle beta ( $\beta$ ) from -10° to +10° relatively to the horizontal direction, and access space (P) being can be formed between the transporting device and the body containing the cutterhead of the cutting machine when in a servicing position.
- (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the transporting device has an
  upper conveyor situated over the main conveyor.
- (Currently amended) A device according to claim 2 wherein the main conveyor is <u>has</u> a
  vibrating plate <u>below the working surface of the transmission belt of the main conveyor</u>.
- (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the main conveyor and the upper conveyor are equipped with endless transmission belts.
- (Previously presented) A device according to claim 4 wherein the transmission belts are of modular structure.
- (Previously presented) A device according to claim 4 wherein the endless transmission belts are made from a material other than an alloy of non-ferrous metals.
- 7. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 2 wherein the positions of the front roll and the rear roll of the upper conveyor are independently adjusted in predetermined ranges, preferably at least along the vertical axis from zero to a predetermined maximum value.

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(Previously presented) A device according to claim 2 wherein the main conveyor and the
upper conveyor are situated relative each to other with controlled relative convergence defined by
an angle alpha (α) towards the outlet of the transported material.

- (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein vibrating portions are placed under the lower surface of the transmission belt of the main conveyor.
- (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the angle beta (β) is from 0° to 5°.
- (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein inclination of the angle beta
   (β) is along a direction of transportation, towards the outlet.
- 12. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the guides are placed at a height equal at least to the height of the upper conveyor.
- 13. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 2 wherein the main conveyor is transmission belt has a vibrating plate below its working surface, which is moved one of independently or together with the upper conveyor.
- 14. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein a drive of the main conveyor is placed on the rear roll.
- 15. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 a drive of the main conveyor is placed on the front roll.
- 16. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 2 wherein a drive of the upper conveyor is placed on the rear roll.
- 17. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 2 wherein a drive of the upper conveyor is placed on the front roll.

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18. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the transporting device is joined with the lower knife of the mouthpiece, the edge of which is positioned in a working position at a near to zero distance (a) from a surface of a cylinder defined by edges of the knives of the cutterhead

19. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein a conveyor receiving the cut material from the cutting/comminution zone is placed between the self-supporting load-bearing structure of the transporting device and the floor.